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PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH HUND, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

An article by Dr Georg Klaus of Jena, published in Neues Deutschland, central organ of the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany, contains the following biographical data concerning Prof Dr Friedrich Hund, nuclear physicist and a candidate for the national prize [sic]:

Dr Hund was born in Karlsruhe, 4 February 1896. In 1921 he received his degree in mathematics, physics and geography from the University of Goettingen and thereafter devoted himself to research in quantum physics. His collaboration with the Goettingen group of scientists (Born, Hilbert, Heisenberg, and others) marked the beginning of his scientific achievements, the results of which were made known in a series of important publications.

In 1928, Dr Hund became professor of theoretical physics at the University of Rostock, and in 1944 he accepted a similar post with the University of Leipzig. Since 1946 he has been a professor on this faculty at the University of Jena.

Hund's particular contributions have been in the explanation of the nature of chemical bonds and within the scope of wave and field theory. Furthermore, he made a significant contribution in the standarization of energy terms in connection with atoms and molecules.

Among Professor Hund's most important publications are his works on line spectra and the periodic system of elements (1927), and his contribution to the "Handbuch der Physik" (Manual of Physics) in 1933, dealing with the quantum theory. Since 1923, he has published a number of important papers in the "Zeitschrift fuer Physik" (Journal of Physics).

Hund also contributed in the field of pure mathematics. His papers on Jacobian polynomials and four-dimensional potential equations appeared in 1927 and his observations concerning the eigenfunction of spherical harmonics were published in 1928.

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The physicist has also written textbooks on theoretical physics. The volumes dealing with mechanics, electricity, and optics, respectively, have been published, and a book on thermodynamics and quantum physics is in preparation.

Professor Bond did considerable work at the Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, and in 1929 lectured at Harvard University.

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